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"What We're Fighting For"

Statements By
United States Servicemen
about
Americans of Japanese Descent

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

U.S.
1945?
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FROM A VETERAN OF GUADALCANAL
PUBLISHED IN TIME, DECEMBER 20, 1943

Recovering from malaria in a California Marine camp, 22-year-old Marine Pfc. Robert E. Borchers of Chicago one night wrote a letter to the American Legion:

"I am one of the fortunate Marines who have recently returned to this country after serving in the offensive against the Japanese on Guadalcanal... We find...a condition behind our backs that stuns us. We find that our American citizens, those of Japanese ancestry, are being persecuted yes, persecuted as though Adolph Hitler himself were in charge.

"...I'm putting it mildly when I say it makes our blood boil... We shall fight this injustice, intolerance and un-Americanism at home! We will not break faith with those who died... We have fought the Japanese and are recuperating to fight again. We can endure the hell of battle, but we are resolved not to be sold out at home."

FROM MARCH FIELD, CALIFORNIA
PUBLISHED IN TIME, JANUARY 10, 1944

Sirs:

Pfc. Raymond (actually Robert) Borcher's letter and your story "Inquisition in Los Angeles" (Time, Dec. 20) point up one of the things that has been worrying me as I get ready to take a trip.

I think I have a right to expect that the fundamental human rights which are held up as a banner for us now are still in existence when I get back. The emotional, hateful racial prejudice shown by certain Californians against anyone with yellow skin who can be called "Jap" certainly helps tear down the Constitution of our country not only for loyal Americans of Japanese descent, but for all loyal Americans.

If California succeeds in passing a law excluding all persons of Japanese descent, there is nothing which would

stop any state from passing a law excluding all New Yorkers who wear glasses (like me) or all Baptists with Swedish names...

They say many of us don't know what we're fighting for now; you keep up the good work and we'll know right well what we have to fight for, and against, when we get back.

WADSWORTH LIKELY,
Sergeant

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN ITALY"
PUBLISHED IN TIME, JULY 3, 1944

Sirs:

It is two years and a couple of days since I left the States with a whole hatful of company on the war's leeching business. During the ten-minute breaks in Africa and Italy we have devoted a lot of effort to trying to realize in the imagination what life is like at home.

Today a magazine (Time, April 24) comes to the beachhead and...tells a story, and these pleasant images become hideous and confused. According to the story five Japanese, including one Frank Kitagawa, are sent to Great Meadows, N.J., from an Arizona relocation center to help Ed Kowalick run his 600-acre farm.... Ed Kowalick's neighbors mount a blind patriotism against this five-man Oriental menace within their gates. A building on Kowalick's farm is burned; and Kowalick, being one man, is forced to send the offenders away. This is, as I said, a little thing. Nobody killed, nobody maimed. To show they hold no hard feelings, the farmers present Ed Kowalick with a box of cigars, and the incident is closed....

It is the schoolhouse, I think, that sticks in my craw. Presumably the small fry of Great Meadows are taught in this schoolhouse: study algebra; and Archimides principle; and nouns; and learn that Lincoln called them "the last best hope of earth..." This is the schoolhouse where hundreds met to hunt down five, who had committed the crime of discarding their ancestry for the ties of a new country.

There are crosses with Japanese names in the American cemeteries in the bitter Italian hills. These men are worthy to bear arms; how then are they not worthy to grow tomatoes?

Since I began, a score of shells have dropped into the vicinity. They threaten my life, for which I have a high regard, but not the things that give my life sustenance. Now I feel that these things are threatened and I do not know where to go to find a clean picture of my country. It is not the matter of Great Meadows alone. Lord knows, that is only the latest and one of the least striking of the items on a long list. Somewhere in the confusion is the central matter of what is true and what is not true about our national life.

This is a very personal matter, like love or good beer or dying, and I should like someone to give me the answer.

THOMAS RIGGS, Jr.
2nd Lieutenant

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN BURMA"
A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

Dear Sir:

Recently in the Red Cross recreation room I chanced to come across an issue of your paper. I thought the paper was very good and the boys here seem to think the same--they suggested that it be distributed more widely.

I noted that most of the articles concerned the Japanese Americans fighting in the European theatre and the grand job they are doing. We, of the Merrill's Marauders (or otherwise known as the Burma Raiders) wish to boast of the Japanese Americans fighting in our outfit and the swell job that they put up. Every Marauder knows these boys by name even if they don't know ours--this is due to the courage and bravery shown by them. One of our platoons owe their lives to Sgt. Hank Gosho who translated Jap orders which were foolishly yelled to the effect that they were attempting a flanking movement. Hank---(we call him Horizontal Hank because he's been pinned down so many times by Jap machine gun fire)---guided the machine gun fire on our side which killed every Jap on that

side. The boys who fought along side of Hank agree that they have never seen a more calm, cool and collected man under fire--he was always so eager to be where he could be of the most use and effectiveness and that was always the hot spot. We asked Hank in the hospital, being his first time in battle, if he was scared or not. He answered, "You're darn rights I was scared...." That's Horizontal Hank all over, always humorous and a smile for every guy. And yet, while the other boys boast of the number of Japs they got, he doesn't talk very much about the three he has to his own account; he usually changes the subject by saying, "Honorable ancestors much regret meeting Merrill's Marauders."

I hope I haven't given the impression that I'm trying to glorify him. Many of the boys, and myself especially, never knew a Japanese American or what one was like--now we know and the Marauders want you to know that they are backing the Nisei 100%. It makes the boys and myself raging mad to read about movements against Japanese Americans by those 4-F'ers back home. We would dare them to say things like they have in front of us.

At one time during battle our platoon was assigned to the Chinese; Sgt. Gosho was always surrounded by the Chinese who insisted that he was Chinese and not Japanese. Many a humorous tale is told by Horizontal Hank on that point; the boys then just step in and pointing to him say, "He's an AMERICAN." And no truer words were ever spoken.

Yours truly,

GEORGE MILLER
Sergeant

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC"

Dear Mrs. T. . . .

...My first eleven years of public school were spent in Auburn, (Washington) Kent's rival city. Some of my best friends were Japanese. I wouldn't be surprised if some were fighting now in Italy. The only fault I found with them was that they studied so industriously that they put many of us to shame and often finished school with highest honors.

Of course, there were and are unpatriotic Japanese. These are criminals and should be treated as such. As such they have been singled out by the F. B. I. There also were and are pro-Axis white people in America, even in Los Angeles.... They, too, have been placed under surveillance by Hoover's men when apprehended.

I wonder how the two totals would tally up. Yet no one is advocating the denial of constitutional rights to the white citizenry--legally--. At least we haven't heard of it. --If they are, by the living God that made us, there'll be blood on the moon when we come back.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT A SMITH
Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN ITALY"
EXTRACT FROM LETTER, SIGNED JOE FROMM, PUBLISHED IN THE CHICAGO SUN, SEPT. 10, 1944

"Similarly disturbing to overseas soldiers--especially those who are liberal and tolerant--are the growing race hatreds at home. When my outfit moved over to Cassino from the Adriatic in Italy several months ago, I read in American magazines and newspapers letters condemning all Japanese, regardless of birth, in the most bitter, intolerant and un-American manner. Japanese Americans were the target of the most vile attacks and discrimination. You can imagine my feelings and the feelings of my comrades, then, when we heard that the unit which we were relieving at Cassino was the famous 100th Battalion, consisting exclusively of Japanese Americans. You can well imagine what we thought of this bigoted group in the United States which was seeking to make life unbearable for the parents and families of these men who, we learned, protested their withdrawal from Cassino although they had been decimated by wounds and disease. This battalion of Japanese Americans since has been proclaimed the most decorated unit in the American Army and the battalion with the heaviest casualties."

FROM A RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR PUBLISHED IN THE PACIFIC CITIZEN, JULY 1, 1944

Des Moines, Iowa. Sergt. Charles (Commando) Kelly, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in Italy, said here this week that the Japanese American Battalion of the 34th Division has a reputation for being a top-notch outfit.

"They've taken a lot, just like all outfits in Italy," Kelly said. "But they have a reputation among other U. S. divisions of being a tough battalion. Everybody likes them."

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC"
PUBLISHED IN PM, NEW YORK, MAY 4, 1944

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading Harold Lavine's article on West Coast prejudice against Japanese-Americans in the Jan. 21 issue of PM.

I have had constant dealings with Japanese-American boys serving in our Army. When I first arrived in this theater of operations, I was an enlisted man and I shared a tent with one of these boys. There were a number of other Japanese-Americans in the company and there wasn't a single man in that outfit who didn't like and respect these boys. They are all courageous, sincere, loyal and swell fellows.

At my present station where I am serving with a Marine unit, we have a group of these Japanese-American boys. They are, like the previous group I mentioned, good Americans and well liked.

If there are any groups of Americans who have reason to hate and distrust Japs, they are the Marine and Army units who have been in combat with them. Yet, all of these Marines and Army boys will swear by the integrity and loyalty of the Japanese-American soldiers.

Many of these boys have parents and sisters and brothers in relocation centers. They are there not because they aren't loyal Americans, but because the Government has seen fit to put them there as purely precautionary measures. Though they are not happy about it, the Japanese-American soldiers understand and appreciate the necessity for such action under the circumstances.

My own sentiments and that of others with whom I have discussed Mr. Lavine's article are that Japanese-Americans should have the same rights guaranteed to them as are guaranteed to any other Americans--the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I would like to see jailed and convicted for making murderous threats the members of those organizations who wrote District Attorney Houser of Los Angeles County that they have "pledged to kill any Japanese who come to California now or after the war."

MORRIS KRITZ
2nd Lieutenant

FROM CAMP CARSON, COLORADO
PUBLISHED IN TIME, FEB. 14, 1944

Sirs:

We are just back from overseas where we were trying to preserve democracy for the very same people who say the Nisei should be deported.

I was bodyguard to an American of Japanese descent who was risking his life to act as an interpreter for us. He was a target for both Jap and American bullets....

I wish to God that some of the people at home who say: "Democracy is for the white race only" could be made to go out and fight for it.

SERVICEMAN'S NAME WITHHELD.

FROM A VETERAN OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN
PUBLISHED IN TIME, FEB. 14, 1944

Moore General Hospital,
Swannanoa, N. C.

Sirs:

There are a lot of people in these United States who have nothing but a one-track mind. In some of the articles of your Letters to the Editors (Time, Jan. 17) I saw some of these people in (a) true light.

I just came from Italy where I was assigned to the Japanese 100th Infantry Battalion. I never in my life saw any more of a true American than they are. To these people who don't have any military rank, probably don't even know that these little "yellow-bellies" (as one writer wrote) are saving his skin: I only wish that these people could witness these little "yellow-bellies" fight.

Ask anyone who has seen them in action against the Jerry (to) tell you about them. They'll tell you when they have them on their flanks they are sure of security in that section....

They, my friends, are not the little "yellow-bellies"; you are.

E. D. CHASSE,
2nd Lieutenant

FROM A VETERAN OF GUADALCANAL
PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN, FEB. 10, 1944

Statements made by Marine Private Terrell Tennant, Guadalcanal veteran, after an interview with Sgt. Ben Kuroki at the University of California at Berkeley, February 9, 1944.

"The thing that I felt and that a lot of the boys feel when they come back from the Pacific area is disgust at the attitude of the man on the street. He assumes that he knows what we are thinking and feeling. He tells us that because

we have been taught to hate the Japanese we are fighting, we naturally will hate every Japanese...."That assumption is erroneous....Of course there are exceptions, but often a feeling of having been let down arises when we come back home and find that the things we are fighting against over there are believed and expounded in our own country...."Sergeant Kuroki is doing a great job. He is fighting both the battles in which we are engaged and so are thousands of other Japanese-Americans. The man on the street owes them a debt--a debt that could be partially paid by honest acceptance of them and their families."

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN ITALY"
EXTRACT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY LIEUT. MARSHALL HAINES TO VERNON McCANN OF THE AUBURN (CALIF.) JOURNAL, PUBLISHED IN THE PACIFIC CITIZEN, SEPT. 9, 1944.

"...The liaison officers from my battalion say that this Japanese American infantry outfit is the best damn infantry they have ever worked with....

"See where there is a lot of controversy about the Japanese returning to California. Also that proper respect has not been shown the Japanese American soldier. Things like that sure go against the grain with me....

"We had been sitting and living in foxholes at Anzio some 63 days. Then the big push out and the capture of Rome. They (the Japanese-American infantrymen) wiped out the last heavy German resistance we met some 12 miles south of Rome and then it was practically a walk into the city.

"I know that all of the combat men here in Italy think the world of the Japanese American soldiers. Their record is so outstanding that they have recently been awarded a Presidential citation.

"They have never failed to take an objective since I have been fighting with them. They have shown as much bravery as the American doughboy, and in some cases more. I have never heard them speak the Japanese language at any time."

Haines, a former employee of the Auburn post office, wrote that people who show disrespect to any fighting soldier makes a soldier think: "Am I fighting that someone of that type can have a free country?"

FROM A VETERAN OF THE ALEUTIAN CAMPAIGN
PUBLISHED IN THE SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE,
JAN. 14, 1944

Dear Sir:

It was with quite a bit of concern that I read the December 20th issue of Time and noted therein an article describing witch hunts against loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry.... TIME quotes...as stating: "We have been told it would be unhealthy for Japanese--even American-born--to be seen on California streets, and that returning Marines and soldiers would slit their throats."...

I believe I can express the attitude of the soldiers who have met the Japanese in combat. I was with the men who froze under fire for 21 days on the bleak snow-covered slopes of Attu. There we saw our best friends killed in a maniacal demonstration of Japanese fanaticism. No one can accuse us of being soft hearted toward the Japanese. The demands of battle develop an impersonal outlook on the subject of death to an enemy.

On the other hand battle gives one a balance of outlook, which from the Time account, is entirely lacking in certain Japanese baiting circles. We have gone into battle with loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry and they have acquitted themselves with honor and glory. Imagine the risk such a man takes when he volunteers and joins the army. Not only must he be careful of enemy fire, but he must take caution that he is not mistaken by his own troops as an enemy. We soldiers glory in the fact that these Japanese boys are with us giving their full measure of devotion, while their brothers and sisters, in some instances, are in relocation camps.

Have no fear that returning soldiers would desire to slit the throats of loyal Japanese at home. Such a threat is only for those who do not know; for those whose courage has not been tested and seek refuge in pompous phrases.

It is not the returning soldier who will wish to torment and hound the loyal American-Japanese. We'll do our fighting on the battlefields against our country's enemies, and not on the streets at home against our country's friends....

If there is a problem with disloyal Japanese at home (and from all accounts in The Bee, there is), quietly take the necessary steps and quell them and oust any incompetent administrators. But leave the United States the kind of a place we are fighting to keep it. Go after the disloyal Japanese; ...but do it the American way....

RALPH T. LUI,
Captain, U. S. Army

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC"
PUBLISHED IN THE STAR-BULLETIN, HONOLULU, T.H.

To the Editor:

Never before have I taken a pen in hand and written to a newspaper editor but "there comes a time in every man's life," I suppose. I have been watching with growing disgust the efforts of some misguided politicians in California to create an issue out of the Japanese-American problem. I see, now, where the same poisonous thinking is spreading to Colorado....

Do the newspapers of California or Colorado print the casualty lists of the Japanese-Americans killed or wounded from the city of Honolulu, alone? I think some people would be dumbfounded if they saw those lists every day, as we do, here. I don't know how the population of Honolulu compares with Denver or Los Angeles (the city of Angels), but I would bet that Honolulu suffers more casualties among its Japanese-Americans than those two mainland cities do in their whole populations.

I can see what the Japanese-Americans in our armed forces are fighting and dying for. They are not only fighting for America but they are fighting for the right of their families to live side by side with the more fortunate races that have made our nation the great nation it is today. They are fighting for tolerance. They are fighting to prove they and their families had nothing to do with December 7, 1941.

They had no axe to grind and a lot of them are giving their lives to prove it. Probably their last thoughts, as they fall mortally wounded, far from their homes in Hawaii, are, "Well, perhaps this will prove we are Americans."

I wonder what the more fortunate ones think as they read the newspapers in some hospital in Africa or Italy.

I speak only for myself as I write this letter. I don't know what my fellow soldiers think on the subject, as I have never brought the subject into open discussion, but knowing my fellow soldiers as I do, I think they would certainly be against those hair-brained schemes of radicals who have nothing better to do during this war than to sit around thinking of ways and means of persecuting a minority.

I know that immediately this letter is published, if it should be, that loyal sons and daughter of California and Colorado will want to jump on me with both feet. I know what their argument will be, "Why judge the whole state by what a few nitwits do and say?"

I understand that argument, perfectly, because it is my argument, too. Why judge a whole race of people and refuse them the right to return to their homes in the western states after the war just because of what a disloyal, small minority of their race has done? No one in this war is persecuting the German-Americans and Italo-Americans, and there is no reason in the world why they should, so why impose a penalty, after the war, upon the Japanese-Americans?

When I meet a Japanese-American on the street in the same uniform as my own, I know he is fighting two wars, our war and his own private war for his people against public opinion and racial discrimination. I am sorely tempted to salute him and say, "Thou art a better man than I am, Gunga Din."

I am enclosing a clipping from my home town paper, proving that all states are not alike, some extend a helping hand to a fellow American who is down.

(*Note:* The clipping is from the Peoria (Ill.) Star. It relates Peoria employers are offering jobs to Japanese Americans.)

I am not of Japanese blood but I would be proud to have a transfusion from one of those boys on the Italian front.

DUDLEY C. RUISH,
Pfc. USA

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND"
A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE LAMAR (COLO.)
DAILY NEWS

Dear Sir:

In England the thousands of Yanks who are "sweating out" their own individual D-Day now very seldom express belief in the opinion that "this time is the last time." The crafty deceit and hypocrisy of certain highly placed spokesmen for all nations of earth have impeded the progress of the great ideals expressed in the Atlantic Charter to such an extent that our hope has been reduced to the fervent wish that the seeds of the next war which are already being thickly sown will take several decades to bear their evil fruit.

Meanwhile many of us learn with despair and wrath that racism without justice, mercy or logic which invites whole races of men according to the racial descent and prejudices of the loud-mouthed adherents of this evil doctrine is assuming menacing proportions at home. All that is lacking is incorporation of this spirit into the political program of our two major parties for America to begin the maelstrom which has engulfed Germany.

To get down to cases--by what rule of logic is a loyal American of Japanese ancestry placed on a moral level with the executioners of Allied prisoners and airmen in Japan and looked upon as creatures or things NOT endowed by the Creator with the inalienable rights of human beings and citizens of the United States?

"He is a Jap!" is the angry reply of the bigot and modern counterpart on racial lines of the religious inquisitors of an age that was marked by religious wars but much better united than we in the idea that all races belong to the human family.

At this point I am reminded of an American infantry regiment which in its days of training had great things predicted for it by Carl Sandburg--a man of good will--and which a little later in the invasion of Italy distinguished itself in action.

Why don't our American racists demand the internment of all Japanese-Americans in uniform?. Or rather the extinction of the entire race as something by nature evil and subhuman?.

And why don't they apply the same rule to all Americans of German descent which would include General Eisenhower and Willkie? The Gestapo has been as ruthless in its treatment of Poles and Russians as the Japanese in China.

Hypocrites--They dare not be logical even in their own perversion. They know that if this rule of the mob were generally established the next war with its many political changes and new alignments would place some of their ancestral countries behind enemy lines. The names of these American racists very often tell their ancestry.

Every sane man and woman in America has, by reason of the fact that the Creator bestowed upon humanity the exclusive gifts of reason and free will; the chance to become a model citizen of our free republic.

The fountains of peace will never be laid by any but men of good will....

Sincerely,

JAMES CORNING
Lieutenant

FROM A VETERAN OF GUADALCANAL
PUBLISHED IN TIME, DEC. 27, 1943

Sirs:

As a U. S. Marine, I am not in the habit of begging anyone for anything, but there is one thing I will beg for. I beg my fellow citizens to give the loyal Japanese Americans their God-given right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness that, I sincerely hope, is guaranteed by our Constitution.

I landed on Guadalcanal in August 1942, and have as much dislike for Japanese militarism as anyone, but please, let's give these fellows a chance. How about it, Americans?

SERVICEMAN'S NAME WITHHELD

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC"

Dear Mrs. T :

I have worked with Americans of Japanese ancestry at home and in battle here in the Pacific, and they are indeed doing a wonderful job. Out here where the war is right in front the prejudices that one hears so much about are absent. It makes a fellow feel pretty bad to see some people at home trying to destroy the very thing that we are fighting to maintain.

I only wish there was some way to make the voices of the fellows out here heard....

Very sincerely yours,

GLENN ABBOTT
Staff Sergeant
U. S. Marine Corps

FROM "SOMEWHERE IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS"

Dear Assemblyman....

...Before I continue, I want to let you know that I am an American-Chinese, born in California, educated in California schools and firmly believe in American institutions.

I have been in the Army nearly three years. I was in the Battle of Attu and am now somewhere in the Hawaiian Islands.

To read your narrow-minded race hating campaign was a shock. This is a democracy. It is people like you who are leading the way to fascism--the very thing millions of people are fighting.

The opinion you expressed that returning soldiers and marines would slit the throats of Japanese if they were to be seen on the streets of California is utterly ridiculous.

Here in Hawaii the Japanese are everywhere. They are even permitted in army camps. In town, thousands of servicemen, men who have fought the Japanese, mingle freely with them. Not once--and this is important--have I seen or heard of any incident of fist fighting or throat-slitting. Here, if anywhere, bitterness against the Japanese should be at its height. Yet there is only tolerance and benignity.

We in this company have seen the horrors of war and the sufferings of humanity. We have seen violent death come to both Americans and Japanese. I have heard my buddies--Americans all--express time and time again, while gazing upon the dead, that they hope there will never be another war after this one is over. Yet how can (this) be if we have race-baiting fascists fomenting hatred at home.

From remarks of my friends, it appears that only men who have fought Japanese will be able to save Constitutional Americanism in California and to preserve decent democracy in the country.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM LEUNG,
Sergeant, U. S. Army

FROM BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA
A LETTER TO THE FRESNO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, FRESNO, CALIF.

Dear Sirs:

...I read the article which was entitled "Races" and appeared in the December 20, 1943, issue of Time Magazine and I felt that there were a few things that must be said.

I, along with many other servicemen here, was filled with horror as together we read of the activities of the professional flag-waving, super-duper patriots and other home-grown Nazis. It seems that in our absence these men are taking over and attempting to destroy the high ideals we are fighting for. Strangely enough they claim to do this in the name of patriotism and anyone of those few brave and clear-minded individuals who has the guts to defy them is promptly labeled a "Communist" be they Republican or Democrat....

We servicemen--those who are across and those of us who are preparing to go across--do not intend to fight this war only to lose the peace. The current anti-Japanese-American agitation now being sponsored by...and other armchair purveyors of hate is regarded with disgust and horror.

Col. Sekiya's letter in Volume 2, No. 1, of the Loyal Stater was proof of the things we have long believed, that our comrades in arms of Japanese extraction are fighting for the same ideals and principles that we are....You can imagine how we admire the men who are trying to drive them and their families PERMANENTLY from their homes. There is nothing so valuable to a soldier as his home and his family. We believe that our Japanese-American comrades-in-arms are getting the dirtiest deal ever perpetrated on an American soldier. What other group of real patriots has fought so loyally and gallantly for our country and its great ideals, while at home they are being systematically knifed in the back? When have any so cheerfully gone to battle and so bravely made even the supreme sacrifice and received so little gratitude at the hands of their fellow citizens....

Americans stand on trial before the world. We must prove to the world that we do believe in the ideals we preach. Every time there is a race riot, fuel is added to

the enemy propaganda machine. The State of California and the city of Fresno owes a debt to our Japanese-American citizens in the service who are paying the price of our common freedom with their lives....Fresno owes these soldiers a monument and not a stab in the back!

I hope you will forgive me for "blowing my top" in this manner, but I, too, look forward to coming back, and when I come back, I shall look forward to meeting my Japanese American friends of school days at F. S. C. on the streets of Fresno as they go happily about their tasks as honored and respected citizens. I don't want to see their homes broken up and destroyed any more than I would want to have it happen to my own. I want those boys to know that we other servicemen will back them up in seeing that justice is done.

Sincerely,

S. W. W.
Fresno State Alumnus

FROM A VETERAN OF SAIPAN
PUBLISHED IN THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Waikiki, T. H.

"Hel-lo," she said. "You've been gone a long time. You were back on the mainland?"

"No, the other way. Guam."

She went to the big refrigerator and got the fresh eggs.

"I suppose they don't feed you very well out there," she said.

"Oh, we get enough food." I picked out three tomatoes and a couple of grapefruit. "But no fresh fruit and vegetables like this."

"I will get your bread," she said. And when she came back, "I'm glad you're home safely. Some are not coming home any more."

"No."

"My husband is not coming home any more."

She rang up the sale on the casn register.

"In Italy?"

"Yes," she said. She smiled up at me. She is very small and has a small, round oriental face. Her dark brown eyes were bright with the pain of sudden yet familiar remembering.

That evening, I read in belated issues of the New Republic two articles by Carey McWilliams about race hatred on the west coast. According to Mr. McWilliams, there are a number of California organizations working for "mass deportation of all persons of Japanese ancestry" from the United States.

I thought of the girl in the Waikiki grocery store. Like herself, her husband was a Nisei, and AJA, American of Japanese ancestry, as they are called in these islands. He died in Italy just as I have seen Americans of other ancestries die on the islands of the Pacific. Hawaii has sent many AJA's 8,000 miles away to fight in the European war. Nearly every day, the Honolulu papers carry the names of those who have been listed as casualties on the Italian front.

They are fighting and dying to help maintain America's traditional freedoms. Because of sacrifices in which they play their full part, the United States is being kept safe for organizations like the Home Front Commandos, Inc., of Sacramento, to spread poison pamphlets like "Slap the Jap Rat" and "No Jap Is Fit to Associate with Human Beings;" for certain misguided citizens of Colorado to attempt the passage of a state exclusion law; and for Los Angeles paper to falsify the Pacific war as "the World War, the War of Oriental Races against Occidental Races for the Domination of the World."

I talked to the girl in the store and read Mr. Mc Williams' articles just after returning from the Marianas campaign. In the fight for Saipan, Guam, and Tinian, American soldiers and marines killed close to 45,000 Japanese at a

cost to our side of 4,470 killed, 20,795 wounded, and 721 missing. The figures are complete to August 17

Anyone who has witnessed fanatical stubbornness, the the furious fatalism of Japanese opposition does not come back with any illusions about the necessity for a decisive United Nations victory. Nor does he make the mistake of lumping Nisei, who have grown up in the free air of democracy, with native Japanese, whose mentalities have been fettered by "thought control" and distorted by the lie of racial superiority. It is this same lie which certain groups are apparently now trying to spread in the United States...."

"Not coming home any more," said the girl behind the counter and she voiced the unanswerable personal tragedy of war.

But it would be a national--and a world--tragedy if the race hatred against which we are fighting on foreign fronts were to gain significant successes at home. Then the Nisei husbands from Hawaii and a thousand other American husbands, brothers, sons and fathers of all racial strains would have sacrificed in vain.

JOHN BEAUFORT

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
SEPTEMBER 16, 1944.

EDITORS:

I have a friend of Japanese ancestry and, I say it with pride, from the Pacific Coast.

C 1775 P20 Bu.

A prisoner was taken during the mopping up on this island. My friend was our interpreter. He learned from this prisoner where a number of others were hiding; as we approached the spot, it was a covered slit trench with a small opening at each end. After failing to induce those inside to come out, our interpreter drew a trench knife, neatly decorated with brass knuckles, and crawled through one entrance to the trench. The enemy immediately started popping out of the other entrance with no desire to fight. From these prisoners our interpreter learned of more--but I think what I've told is sufficient. Just take it from this G.I. that our interpreters have plenty of nerve and their services are invaluable.

GLENN W. M'DONALD
Corporal
Marshall Islands

W 24

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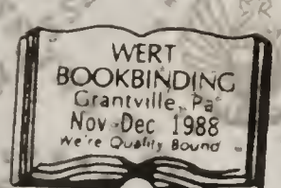
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